

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL ANALYSES OF CHILD OUTCOMES AMONG FAMILIES WHO WERE STILL OFF FOOD STAMPS

This appendix presents additional analyses of the findings on child outcomes for families who were still off Food Stamps at the time of the surveys. The additional analyses involve the use of a “child outcomes index.” This index is designed to combine the responses to all of the child outcome questions into a single numerical measure for each case. The index provides an overall measure for each respondent, combining the different dimensions of child behavior, temperament, and attitude.

A. CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHILD OUTCOMES INDEX

To construct the child outcome index, we assigned scores to the responses to the 10 child outcome questions shown earlier in Chapter V. The questions relating to the child’s health were not included in the index. A score of 100 was assigned for a positive outcome; a score of 50 was assigned for a neutral outcome; and a score of 0 was assigned for a negative outcome.

For example, the first question on child outcomes was as follows: “Compared to one year ago, would you say that your child gets along better with other children, gets along worse, or is about the same?” If the respondent answered “better” to this question, a score of 100 was assigned to the case. If the respondent answered “the same,” a score of 50 was assigned. If the respondent answered “worse,” a score of 0 was assigned. An exception had to be made for the question that asked about how well the child had been doing with schoolwork. This question had five response options, which were scored as follows:

- very well -- 100,
- well --75,
- average -- 50,
- below average: -- 25, and
- not well at all -- 0.

Under this approach, a “perfect score” on the index was 100 (a score of 100 for each of the 10 questions). The average score on the index for all respondents was 69.3.

B. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Differences Based on Household Type

- As indicated in Exhibit A-1, the scores on the child outcomes index did not vary greatly by household type, although the average score was slightly higher for respondents from two-parent families.

**EXHIBIT A-1
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE,
BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

Strata	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
1-parent	68.8	69.6
2-parent	70.3	71.9

Child Outcomes by Ethnicity

- As indicated in Exhibit A-2, the average score on the index was somewhat higher for blacks than for whites.
- Exhibit A-3 shows that this was true regardless of household type.

**EXHIBIT A-2
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE,
BY ETHNICITY OF THE RESPONDENT**

Ethnicity	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Black	70.3	72.8
White	67.4	66.0

**EXHIBIT A-3
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE,
BY ETHNICITY AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Ethnicity	1-parent	2-parent
Black	69.8	72.2
White	65.9	68.9
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Ethnicity	1-parent	2-parent
Black	72.7	73.2
White	62.4	70.7

Child Outcomes by Age of the Respondent

- As indicated in Exhibit A-4, the average score on the index for 1998-1999 leavers was higher for parents aged 18-29 than for older parents. This may reflect the impact of the child’s age. Among 1999-2000 leavers, age had less of an impact, but the score was still highest for respondents aged 18-24.
- Exhibit A-5 shows that 1998-1999 leavers aged 40 and over had the lowest average score, regardless of household type. Among 1999-2000 leavers, the impact of age was less clear.

**EXHIBIT A-4
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE,
BY AGE OF RESPONDENT**

Age	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
18-24 years old	73.4	73.3
25-29 years old	74.2	69.0
30-34 years old	69.9	70.1
35-39 years old	69.0	69.2
40+ years old	65.2	71.7

**EXHIBIT A-5
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY AGE OF RESPONDENT
AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

Age	1998-1999 Leavers	
	1-parent	2-parent
18-24 years old	69.6	81.4
25-29 years old	76.3	70.4
30-34 years old	69.3	71.2
35-39 years old	68.8	69.7
40+ years old	63.6	68.1
Age	1999-2000 Leavers	
	1-parent	2-parent
18-24 years old	73.9	71.4
25-29 years old	68.1	71.0
30-34 years old	70.4	69.5
35-39 years old	67.9	72.3
40+ years old	69.4	75.8

Child Outcomes by Education

- As indicated in Exhibits A-6 and A-7, the average score on the index for 1998-1999 leavers was lowest for respondents who had not completed high school. Among 1999-2000 leavers, education had no impact.

**EXHIBIT A-6
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE,
BY EDUCATION OF RESPONDENT**

Education	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Did not complete high school	61.3	69.5
Completed high school	72.5	70.7
Attended college	69.6	70.2

**EXHIBIT A-7
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY EDUCATION OF RESPONDENT
AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Education	1-parent	2-parent
Did not complete high school	59.8	64.2
Completed high school	72.9	71.5
Attended college	67.4	74.4
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Education	1-parent	2-parent
Did not complete high school	70.6	67.0
Completed high school	69.5	73.7
Attended college	68.6	73.1

Child Outcomes and Employment Status

- As shown in Exhibits A-8 and A-9, the average score on the index among 1998-1999 leavers was much higher for employed respondents than for non-working respondents. Among 1999-2000 leavers, employment status had no impact.

**EXHIBIT A-8
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE,
BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Employment Status	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Working	71.6	70.1
Not working	62.4	71.0

**EXHIBIT A-9
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Employment Status	1-parent	2-parent
Working	70.8	73.9
Not working	61.7	63.3
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Employment Status	1-parent	2-parent
Working	69.7	71.2
Not working	69.3	73.0

Child Outcomes and Non-Traditional Work Hours

- Exhibits A-10 and A-11 show that, contrary to what might be expected, the average score on the index among 1998-1999 leavers was slightly higher for respondents who worked early morning or evening hours than for respondents who worked traditional schedules.
- Among 1999-2000 leavers, work hours had no impact on the child index.

**EXHIBIT A-10
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE BY WORK SCHEDULE**

Schedule	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Begin work before 6 a.m. or end work after 6 p.m.	74.0	69.9
Work between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.	70.6	70.5

**EXHIBIT A-11
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WORK SCHEDULE
AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Schedule	1-parent	2-parent
Begin work before 6 a.m. or end work after 6 p.m.	73.4	75.6
Work between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.	69.9	72.3
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Schedule	1-parent	2-parent
Begin work before 6 a.m. or end work after 6 p.m.	68.8	73.2
Work between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.	70.3	71.0

- Exhibit A-12 shows that, among 1998-1999 leavers, having to work weekends did not have a consistent impact upon the average child outcomes index score among respondents.
- Among 1999-2000 leavers, those who rarely worked weekends actually had the lowest score on the index.
- However, as indicated in Exhibit A-13, having to work weekends did have an impact on the index score for 1998-1999 leavers from two-parent families. However, the impact was the reverse for 1999-2000 leavers.

**EXHIBIT A-12
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER
THE RESPONDENT WORKED WEEKENDS**

Schedule	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Every weekend	71.4	73.2
Most weekends	69.9	69.3
Occasionally	75.6	69.2
Rarely	72.3	62.9

**EXHIBIT A-13
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS
WORKED WEEKENDS AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
	1-parent	2-parent
Every weekend	73.5	65.0
Most weekends	70.0	78.6
Occasionally	66.5	71.9
Rarely	60.0	95.0
	1999-2000 Leavers	
	1-parent	2-parent
Every weekend	73.4	72.7
Most weekends	67.9	75.3
Occasionally	69.8	68.5
Rarely	64.4	58.1

Child Outcomes and Child Care Access

- Exhibits A-14 to A-17 show that the index score was not greatly affected by whether respondents had ever needed child care in the past 12 months but could not find it or pay for it.

**EXHIBIT A-14
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENT
HAD EVER NEEDED REGULAR CHILD CARE IN THE PAST YEAR
BUT COULD NOT FIND IT**

Past Experience	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Could not find child care	68.7	68.0
Could find child care	69.6	71.0

EXHIBIT A-15
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS
HAD EVER NEEDED CHILD CARE IN THE PAST YEAR BUT COULD
NOT FIND IT AND BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Past Experience	1-parent	2-parent
Could not find child care	67.9	70.4
Could find child care	69.1	70.3
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Past Experience	1-parent	2-parent
Could not find child care	66.1	75.0
Could find child care	70.9	71.3

EXHIBIT A-16
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENT
HAD EVER NEEDED REGULAR CHILD CARE IN THE PAST YEAR
BUT COULD NOT PAY FOR IT

Past Experience	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Could not pay for child care	67.8	67.8
Could pay for child care	69.8	71.1

EXHIBIT A-17
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS
HAD EVER NEEDED CHILD CARE IN THE PAST YEAR BUT COULD
NOT PAY FOR IT AND BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Past Experience	1-parent	2-parent
Could not pay for child care	66.2	70.6
Could pay for child care	69.7	70.2
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Past Experience	1-parent	2-parent
Could not pay for child care	67.1	69.9
Could pay for child care	70.4	72.3

Child Outcomes by Safety of Neighborhood as a Place to Raise Children

- Exhibits A-18 to A-19 show that, in the 1998-1999 leavers sample, the index score was higher among respondents who rated their neighborhoods as very good or good. Among the 1999-2000 leavers, the relationship was less clear.

**EXHIBIT A-18
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY PERCEIVED QUALITY OF
NEIGHBORHOOD AS A PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN**

Neighborhood	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Very good	71.6	72.0
Good	69.4	70.5
Not too good	61.4	61.5
Very bad	-	71.5

**EXHIBIT A-19
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY PERCEIVED QUALITY OF
NEIGHBORHOOD AS A PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN
AND BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Neighborhood	1-parent	2-parent
Very good	71.7	71.4
Good	69.1	69.9
Not too good	61.0	63.6
Very bad	-	-
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Neighborhood	1-parent	2-parent
Very good	69.9	75.4
Good	70.4	70.6
Not too good	62.8	58.3
Very bad	70.5	73.9

Child Outcomes and Family Mobility

- Exhibits A-20 to A-21 show that the index score did not vary consistently by whether the respondent had moved in the past 12 months.

**EXHIBIT A-20
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER RESPONDENT
MOVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS**

Moved?	1998-1999 Leavers	1999-2000 Leavers
Yes	72.6	69.5
No	69.4	70.0

**EXHIBIT A-21
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX SCORE, BY WHETHER RESPONDENT
MOVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Moved?	1-parent	2-parent
Yes	71.9	74.2
No	69.8	68.6
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Moved?	1-parent	2-parent
Yes	69.8	68.8
No	68.7	72.6

Child Outcomes and Respondents' Views of Life After Food Stamps

- Exhibits A-22 and A-23 show that respondents who had a more positive view of life since leaving Food Stamps had higher scores on the child outcomes index. For example, 1998-1999 leavers who agreed that life was better than a year ago had an average score of 70.8, compared to a score of only 60.3 for those who disagreed that life was better than a year ago. The same pattern was true for the 1999-2000 leavers.
- Likewise, respondents who agreed that they felt more stress than a year ago had lower average scores than respondents who disagreed that they felt more stress.

**EXHIBIT A-22
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX BY RESPONDENT VIEWS OF LIFE
SINCE LEAVING FOOD STAMPS**

	1998-1999 Leavers	
Statement	Agree	Disagree
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	70.8	60.3
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	67.9	71.1
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	65.7	72.2
	1999-2000 Leavers	
Statement	Agree	Disagree
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	72.1	60.7
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	67.8	73.1
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	67.0	73.8

**EXHIBIT A-23
CHILD OUTCOME INDEX BY RESPONDENT VIEWS OF LIFE
SINCE LEAVING FOOD STAMPS AND BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE**

	1998-1999 Leavers		
Statement	Response	1-parent	2-parent
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	69.9	72.8
	Disagree	62.5	54.6
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	67.7	68.3
	Disagree	70.2	73.2
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	65.5	66.0
	Disagree	71.5	74.0
	1999-2000 Leavers		
Statement	Response	1-parent	2-parent
You feel better about yourself than a year ago	Agree	72.2	71.9
	Disagree	58.1	71.3
You worry more about your family now than a year ago	Agree	66.9	69.9
	Disagree	72.6	74.0
You feel more stress now than you did a year ago	Agree	65.8	70.0
	Disagree	73.9	73.7